

**Forty-third Meeting of
the Business Facilitation Advisory Committee**

***Agenda Item 3(a) : Report on the work of the
Wholesale and Retail Task Force***

Purpose

This paper reports on the work of the Wholesale and Retail Task Force (WRTF) since the last Business Facilitation Advisory Committee meeting held on 12 May 2020.

Work progress of WRTF

2. In view of the pandemic situation of COVID-19 and the social distancing measures, discussion papers of the following items were circulated to solicit views from members. Members' views and departments' responses were distributed to members for information on 24 August 2020.

Progress of amendments to the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations and the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012

3. The Fire Services Department (FSD) provided updates on the latest progress of the amendments to the Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations and the Dangerous Goods (Application and Exemption) Regulation 2012 as well as the proposed amendments, including the control regime of Dangerous Goods in Consumer Packs (DGCP).

4. The current legislative framework allows any person to use, store and convey certain types of DG in small quantities, i.e. within an exempt quantity, without a DG licence. The proposed amendments are intended to align the local regulatory regime on DG with the international standards, such as the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, to facilitate the trade and the public as well as to enhance the safety standard within the purview of the regulatory control of DG in Hong Kong.

5. WRTF supported the proposed amendments and were interested in the Control Regime of DGCP and details of the proposed amendments, as well as the penalty level for offences. FSD provided details of additional information and thanked for WRTF's support.

Transshipment Cargo Exemption Scheme

6. The Transshipment Cargo Exemption Scheme (TCES) was introduced by the Trade and Industry Department (TID) in 1984 to exempt registered shipping companies and airlines, or their appointed freight forwarders, from the import/export licensing requirements under the Import and Export Ordinance (Cap. 60) and the Reserved Commodities (Control of Imports, Exports and Reserved Stocks) Regulations (Cap. 296A) in respect of specified types of transshipment cargo, subject to certain conditions.

7. TID launched two trade facilitation measures in respect of TCES in 2019 under the “Be the Smart Regulator” Programme. The first measure was the provision of end-to-end e-licensing services for new registration under TCES, which enhanced TID’s efficiency in processing the applications and provided convenience to the trade. Another measure was the extension of the validity period of TCES Certificates of Exemption from one year to two years, which helped the transport industry save operating costs and administrative efforts.

8. WRTF supported TCES and suggested a mobile application for e-licensing and registration services. TID thanked for WRTF’s support and would take into account the suggestion in the future development of the Scheme.

Way forward

9. Members are invited to note the work progress of WRTF. WRTF will continue to monitor the development of the above issues.

**Business Facilitation Team
Efficiency Office
Innovation and Technology Bureau
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